

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY M:WEGAN:ML

APPROVED BY M - MR. EAGLEBURGER

S/S: JLHOGANSON

AF/E - W.COOTE

S/CCT - R.A.FEAREY

NEA - E.ABINGTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226186

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW 4

REFERENCE: KHARTOUM 2233, JIDDA 6443, DAMASCUS 3692,
SANA 2676

1. APPROACHES HAVE NOW BEEN MADE IN KHARTOUM, JIDDA, AND
DAMASCUS RE THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE FOUR AMERICANS
HELD IN ERITREA. RESPONSES HAVE BEEN POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH
VARYING IN DEGREE.

2. ADDIS ABABA HAS BEEN ASKED NOT TO RAISE ISSUE OF USG
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APPROACHES AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WITH THE EPMG SINCE DEPART-

MENT FEELS TO DO SO MIGHT DILUTE DEGREE TO WHICH EPMG FEELS WE HOLD THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. SHOULD THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES RAISE ISSUE, WE HAVE ASKED ADDIS ABABA TO SEEK GUIDANCE RE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF INFORMING THEM OF OTHER STEPS TAKEN THUS FAR.

3. FOR KHARTOUM, JIDDA, AND DAMASCUS: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS REGARDING THE ADVISABILITY OF INFORMING HOST GOVERNMENTS ON AN IF ASKED BASIS OF USG'S OTHER APPROACHES TO DATE. FURTHERMORE, IS THE EPMG LIKELY TO HEAR OF USG EFFORTS THUS FAR FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS?

4. FOR SANA: YARG OFFER OF ASSISTANCE MOST WELCOME. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS PER PARA 3 ABOVE. INGERSOLL

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